Returning an UST System to Service

If an UST system has been out of service or temporarily closed for one year or more, the owner must complete the procedures below for activating the UST system and receive approval from the DNR UST Section before the UST system is returned to service.

Do not activate the UST system until the following procedures are completed:

1. Demonstrate that temporary closure requirements have been met [135.15(1)], that is, the UST system has been empty, or if not empty, leak detection monitoring was conducted and records are available; tank management fees have been paid and are current, corrosion protection has been maintained; insurance has been in place as long as possible and a site check was completed before the insurance expired. Remove any water from the tank.

2. If the UST system has external cathodic protection (other than fiberglass) arrange for a cathodic protection tester to measure the potentials on the UST system to ensure it is adequately protected and that the corrosion system is working properly. If the UST system is protected by an impressed current cathodic protection system, make sure the power has been "On" continuously during temporary closure. If the power has been interrupted (turned off) for six months to a year, an integrity assessment of the tank system (manned entry) is required. If the power to an impressed current system has been turned off for more than a year, the UST system must be permanently closed as it no longer meets temporary closure requirements of 135.15(1). The UST system must pass cathodic protection testing to return to service.

3. In order for lined tanks (with no external protection) to be brought back into service after a year or more of temporary closure, an internal inspection conducted by a third party must be conducted (either physical entry into the tank or video inspection) to ensure the tanks are suitable for operation. Tanks that fail or have inconclusive results must conduct an integrity assessment to determine whether it is suitable to be brought back into service.

4. Make sure the spill containment, sumps and under dispenser containment is in good shape (i.e., no corrosion, cracks, perforations or damage). Containment sumps and UDCs must be liquid tight. Sumps and UDCs installed after August 2007 must be visually inspected every other year and sensing devices must be tested every other year.

5. Perform a precision test (0.1 gph leak rate) on the tanks. If an automatic tank gauging (ATG) system is installed and operational, you may use that to test the tanks. Tanks must be filled to 85-90 percent capacity for testing. If you do not have an ATG system, contact a third party tank tester and arrange for a precision test. You may use either a volumetric (overfill) or non-volumetric (under fill) method of testing. The under fill method requires much less product for testing. Remember all methods must be third party evaluated and listed with the National

Workgroup on Leak Detection Evaluations (NWGLDE). If a tank fails the precision test, it must be emptied immediately.

6. Perform a precision test on the pressurized or suction product lines. Note: safer suction product lines with one check valve at the pump/dispenser that are sloped back to the tank do not need to be tested. If an ATG system is installed and operational and capable of testing the product lines at a 0.1 gph leak rate, you may use it to test the lines. If you do not have an ATG system capable of a precision test, contact a licensed Iowa tester to arrange for a precision or annual line tightness test. Statistical Inventory Reconciliation (SIR) is not a suitable method of conducting precision tests of product lines.

7. Contact an Iowa licensed tester to arrange for a function test of your electronic or mechanical line leak detector on pressurized delivery product lines to ensure it is capable of detecting the size leaks specified by the rules and that it is third party evaluated and listed by the National Work on Leak Detection Evaluations.

8. Obtain an approved method of financial responsibility (UST insurance). UST insurance is required for all regulated underground storage tank systems at the time they go into service until they are permanently closed.

9. Ensure proper operation of spill and overfill equipment.

10. Check all visible systems and equipment to ensure they are in good condition for start up and operation.

11. An UST system that has been temporarily closed and emptied cannot have product transferred to it for testing or operation until approved by the DNR UST Section. Contact the UST Section for delivery authorization for tank tightness testing. It is illegal for transporters to deposit product without current tank management tags.

12. Submit all paperwork, including tank and line leak detector, corrosion and line leak detector functional test results, certificate of UST insurance, 148 or registration form (if ownership or equipment is changed) with correct and current information to the address below:

    Underground Storage Tank Section
    Wallace State Office Building
    502 E 9th Street
    Des Moines, IA 50319

    Call 515.281.8941